



Plant Select®
Smart plants for the right places

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PLACE

If you're new to our newsletter, cheers! For 27 years, our nonprofit has tested and selected plants that thrive in the high plains and intermountain regions, so you can create waterwise landscapes that are beautiful, low maintenance and have a positive environmental impact—no matter what your skill level.



Pictured: [Meadow blazing star](#) (*Liatris ligulistylus*) | biennial [Denver daisy](#) (*Rudbeckia*) | [Coral Baby penstemon](#) (*Penstemon barbatus* 'Coral Baby') | [VERMILION BLUFFS® Mexican sage](#) (*Salvia darcyi* 'Pscarl')

Plant Select's goal is to create smart plant choices for a new American landscape inspired by the Rocky Mountain region

A warm welcome to our newest Plant Select members:

- [Plant Addicts](#) – Online Retail Member
- [Barbara Sheedy](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Bruce Lewis](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Cameron-k Garrett](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Denise Roth Barber](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Diana May](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [James Weatherly](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Kathleen Cook](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Kim Baldwin](#) – Individual Ambassador

- Vanessa Deremer – Individual Ambassador

And thanks to all who've renewed their memberships!

Learn how to become a Plant Select member Landscape Professional, Retail, Wholesale, Mail Order, Local Government or Individual Ambassador

Bring on the penstemons

Packed with beauty and nectar, these plants shine in western gardens

Penstemons occur naturally across the West, from desert to mountain habitats. They make a lovely addition to drought-tolerant landscapes, coming in a range of colors and heights. (You'll find more than a dozen penstemons in Plant Select!)

Penstemons have tube-shaped flowers that contain a high volume of nectar, so they're attractive to hummingbirds and other pollinators. And yay, typically, penstemons are deer resistant too.

Here are a few beauties to consider:



Desert beardtongue

Penstemon pseudospectabilis

A great “transitional” plant for people just getting into waterwise gardening. Lush vibe and showy flowers, but very low water once established. Bumble bees and hummingbirds love it!



Bridge's penstemon

Penstemon rostriflorus

A resilient, longer-lived penstemon. Great for commercial uses. Its scarlet-orange flowers are very attractive to both hummingbirds and hawk moths.



Coral Baby

Penstemon barbatus 'Coral Baby'



PRAIRIE JEWEL® penstemon

Penstemon grandiflorus 'P010S'

Long-lasting blooms and S-H-O-W-Y!
It blooms into late summer and even early fall. Coral Baby has a more structured, upright shape than the penstemons above. Shorter lived.

Big flowers in white, pink, purple and lavender. Beautiful, silver-green foliage. Best in mass. This penstemon gets tall, so it looks lovely among ornamental grasses. Self sows if it likes where it is.

In the garden with Grace

How to "bare root plant"



Watch as Horticulturist **Grace Johnson** of [Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms](#) shares her preferred way of planting perennials: bare root planting.

In this helpful video, Grace shares why she removes the potting soil before planting, and she shows the simple steps she follows. (This planting technique works well for rock and crevice gardens too.)

Watch Grace's video

Chatting waterwise plants with Denver Water

Ross Shrigley of Plant Select recently chatted with **Bea Stratton** of Denver Water about plants that are beautiful, low maintenance and use fewer resources.

Tip! If you click on the links below, scroll down the page for the video.



What are five awesome plants for lush, low-water landscapes? In this [video](#), Ross shares five favorites with Bea, including pollinator plants, a native shrub and a groundcover.



What exactly is a "waterwise" plant? And how much less can you water with Plant Select plants? In this [video](#), Ross and Bea discuss what waterwise means and what Plant Select is.



Denver Water promotes vibrant, diverse Coloradoscapes that fit naturally into our semi-arid climate. You can [find their rebates and conservation tips here](#). And if you haven't watched their entertaining, Backstreet Boys-inspired video, "[I Water That Way](#)", check it out!

Why plants matter

Plants are an essential part of landscapes—even low-water ones

Turning lawns into rock, concrete or artificial turf may save water, but these barren hardscapes can lead to long-term problems.

Our friends at Conservation Garden Park in Utah have shared 5 excellent reasons to include waterwise plants in your landscape. Plants can save water—and do so much more!



[Discover why plants matter >](#)

Image: [Conservation Garden Park](#)

One-week only! Get your Plant Select merch On sale through Tuesday, May 22



Show your support for waterwise plants with a [Plant Select shirt and/or a hat](#).

(Your teams, crews or staff may love them too. Hint, hint!)

We only offer Plant Select merch once in a blue moon, so grab these items while you can. Proceeds help fund our nonprofit's plant research and trials.

Sale ends Tuesday, May 22. [Shop here >](#)

Mark your calendar: Plant Select morning is Saturday, May 25 Stock up on waterwise plants

Looking for beautiful, low-fuss plants? Want to spend less time watering? Wondering how to be more waterwise?

Join us for our annual [Plant Select morning](#) at local garden centers. Many garden centers boost their selection of Plant Select plants for this event. Plus, chat with Colorado Master Gardeners about waterwise landscaping, native plants, pollinators and more.

Date: Saturday, May 25, 2024

When: 9 am to noon

Who: All are welcome

Where: [Participating garden centers](#) (Colorado)



Master gardeners: Please check your VMS to sign up for volunteer spots.

More events that may interest you

Water-wise Day Expo
Aurora Municipal Center
Aurora, Colo.
Sat., May 18
[View talks & event details](#)
(Plant Select talk: 1 pm)

Conservation Garden Tour
Conservation Garden Park
West Jordan, Utah
Thurs., June 6
[View event details](#)
Registration required

**How to Design a Fire
Adapted and Livable
Landscape**
Durango Public Library
Durango, Colo.
Wed., June 19
[View event details](#)

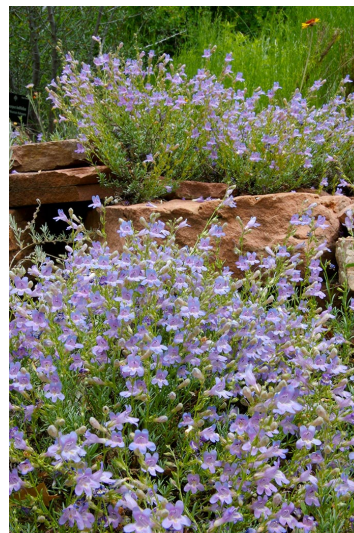
Smart plants for the right places A low water combo for big color



Red feathers



Alan's Apricot ice
plant



SILVERTON®
bluemats
penstemon

Botanical names:

Echium russicum compact form (*Echium amoenum*) | *Delosperma* 'Alan's Apricot' | *Penstemon linarioides* subsp. *coloradoensis* 'P014S'

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